

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, DISTRICT OF MONTANA, MISSOULA DIVISION

CHANTEL COOPER, Miranda Sheridan  
SUNNY ELLENWOOD  
PLAINTIFF,

Civil Action No.

V.

MAYOR PAUL BRINEY  
Commissioner William BARRON  
Commissioner Gale Decker  
Commissioner STEVE STANLEY  
SHERIFF DON BELL  
Undersheriff Ben Woods  
Judge DEBORAH KIM CHRISTOPHER  
Judge JAMES MANLEY  
BENJAMIN R. ANCIAUX  
JAMES LAPOTKA  
STEVEN ESCHENBACHER  
MOLLY OWEN  
ROBERT J. LONG  
JAIL STAFF  
CITY OF POLSON  
DEFENDANTS,

JURY TRIAL  
Demanded,

COMPLAINT,

JAN 18 2021  
Clerk, U.S. Courts  
District of Montana  
Missoula Division

CHANTEL COOPER, WAS AND IS CONFINED AT THE LAKE COUNTY  
JAIL FACILITY LOCATED AT 106 4TH AVE. EAST, IN THE CITY OF  
POLSON, STATE OF MONTANA, FROM OCTOBER 26, 2021 TO PRESENT.  
Miranda Sheridan, 9-30-21 Sunny Ellenwood 1-9-22

DEFENDANT MAYOR PAUL BRINEY, WAS AT ALL RELEVANT TIMES,  
HEREIN THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF POLSON,

DEFENDANT COMMISSIONER WILLIAM BARRON WAS AT ALL RELEVANT  
TIMES HEREIN THE COMMISSIONER, AND AS AN INDIVIDUAL AS  
COMMISSIONER OF ADULT SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF POLSON,  
HIS RESPONSIBILITY IS OPERATING AND MAINTAINING DETENTION,  
PENAL, AND CORRECTIVE INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE CITY OF  
POLSON, INCLUDING THE COUNTY JAIL.

DEFENDANT COMMISSIONER GALE DECKER, WAS AT ALL RELEVANT TIMES  
HEREIN THE COMMISSIONER, AND AS AN INDIVIDUAL, AS COMMISSIONER  
OF ADULT SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF POLSON HIS RESPONSIBILITY IS  
OPERATING AND MAINTAINING DETENTION, PENAL, AND CORRECTIVE



INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE CITY OF POLSON, INCLUDING COUNTY JAIL.

DEFENDANT COMMISSIONER STEVE STANLEY WAS AT ALL RELEVANT TIMES HEREIN THE COMMISSIONER, AND AS AN INDIVIDUAL, AS COMMISSIONER OF ADULT SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF POLSON HIS RESPONSIBILITY IS OPERATING AND MAINTAINING DETENTION, PENAL, AND CORRECTIVE INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE CITY OF POLSON INCLUDING COUNTY JAIL.

DEFENDANT SHERIFF DON BELL IS AND WAS AT ALL RELEVANT TIMES HEREIN THE SHERIFF, SUPERINTENDENT (AND AS AN INDIVIDUAL) OF THE COUNTY JAIL, AS SUPERINTENDENT DEFENDANT DON BELL MANAGES ITS DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS AND EXECUTES ITS POLICIES.

DEFENDANT UNDERSHERIFF BEN WOODS IS AND WAS AT ALL RELEVANT TIMES HEREIN THE UNDERSHERIFF, SUPERINTENDENT (AND AS AN INDIVIDUAL) OF THE COUNTY JAIL, AS SUPERINTENDENT, DEFENDANT BEN WOODS MANAGES ITS DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS AND EXECUTES ITS POLICIES.

DEFENDANT DEBORAH KING CHRISTOPHER, DISTRICT COURT JUDGE AND AS AN INDIVIDUAL, IS AND WAS AT ALL RELEVANT TIMES HEREIN AN EMPLOYEE OF THE COUNTY.

DEFENDANT JAMES MANLEY, DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, AND AS AN INDIVIDUAL, IS AND WAS AT ALL RELEVANT TIMES HEREIN AN EMPLOYEE OF THE COUNTY.

DEFENDANT BENJAMIN R. ANCIANX, DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY AND AS AN INDIVIDUAL, IS AND WAS AT ALL RELEVANT TIMES HEREIN AN EMPLOYEE OF THE COUNTY.

DEFENDANT JAMES LAPOTKA, DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY AND AS AN INDIVIDUAL, IS AND WAS AT ALL RELEVANT TIMES HEREIN AN EMPLOYEE OF THE COUNTY.

DEFENDANT MULLY OWEN, DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY AND AS AN INDIVIDUAL, IS AND WAS AT ALL RELEVANT TIMES HEREIN



AN EMPLOYEE OF THE COUNTY.

DEFENDANT STEVEN ESCHENBACHER COUNTY ATTORNEY, AND AS A  
INDIVIDUAL, IS AND WAS AT ALL RELEVANT TIMES HEREIN AN  
EMPLOYEE OF THE COUNTY.

DEFENDANT ROBERT J. LONG OFFICE OF PUBLIC DEFENDER, AND  
AS A INDIVIDUAL IS AND WAS AT ALL RELEVANT TIMES HEREIN  
AN EMPLOYEE OF THE COUNTY.

DEFENDANT JAIL STAFF, IS AND WAS AT ALL RELEVANT TIMES  
HEREIN AN EMPLOYEE OF THE COUNTY.

DEFENDANT CITY OF POLSON, IS AND WAS AT ALL RELEVANT TIMES  
HEREIN A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE STATE OF MONTANA.

THIS ACTION ARISES UNDER AND IS BROUGHT PURSUANT TO  
42 U.S.C. SECTION 1983 TO REMEDY THE DEPRIVATION UNDER  
COLOR OF STATE LAW, OF RIGHTS GUARANTEED BY THE  
EIGHTH AND FOURTEENTH AMENDMENTS TO THE UNITED  
STATES CONSTITUTION. THIS COURT HAS JURISDICTION OVER  
THIS ACTION PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. SECTIONS 1331 AND  
1343. PLAINTIFF'S CLAIMS FOR ENJOINTIVE RELIEF ARE  
AUTHORIZED BY RULE 65 OF THE FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL  
PROCEDURE. THIS CAUSE OF ACTION AROSE IN THE DISTRICT  
OF MONTANA, MISSOULA DIVISION. THEREFORE VENUE IS  
PROPER UNDER 28 U.S.C. SECTION 1391(B.)

PLAINTIFF CHANTEL COOPER HAS NO OTHER LAWSUITS DEALING  
WITH THE SAME FACTS INVOLVED IN THIS ACTION OR  
OTHERWISE RELATING TO HER IMPRISONMENT.

THE PLAINTIFF HAS EXHAUSTED ALL AVAILABLE ADMINISTRATIVE  
REMEDIES WITHIN THE LAKE COUNTY JAIL. GRIEVANCES HAVE  
BEEN FILED, MOST HAVE NOT BEEN RESPONDED TO.



AT ALL RELEVANT TIMES HEREIN, DEFENDANTS WERE "PERSONS" FOR THE PURPOSE OF 42 U.S.C. SECTION 1983 AND ACTED UNDER COLOR OF LAW TO DEPRIVE THE PLAINTIFF OF HER CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS.

THE PLAINTIFF RECOGNIZES THAT CERTAIN PROCEDURES, PRACTICES AND RESOURCES ARE REQUIRED BY CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY LAW IN CONJUNCTION WITH CONFINING INMATES IN THE LAKE COUNTY DETENTION CENTER. THESE PROCEDURES, PRACTICES AND RESOURCES INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT NECESSARILY LIMITED TO THOSE DESCRIBED IN THE HARRY LOREAN CONSENT DECREE, ORDER AND JUDGMENT. THE FACT THAT CERTAIN LEGAL REQUIREMENTS ARE SET FORTH IN THIS CONSENT DECREE SHALL NOT BE CLAIMED TO PRECLUDE OR LIMIT CLAIMS FOR ADDITIONAL FORMS OF RELIEF WHICH MAY BE MADE IN OTHER CASES IN THE FUTURE INVOLVING ISSUES OR MATTERS NOT RESOLVED BY THIS DECREE.

THIS CONSENT DECREE SHALL BE ONGOING IN NATURE, AND CONTINUE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT TO LEGALLY BIND THE PARTIES FROM THE DATE IT IS APPROVED BY THE COURT, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER ANY OF THE NAMED PLAINTIFFS IN THE HARRY LOREAN CASE RESIDES IN THE DETENTION CENTER AT ANY GIVEN TIME. ALL CURRENT AND FUTURE INMATES OF THE DETENTION CENTER AT ANY GIVEN TIME ARE INTENDED BENEFICIARIES OF THIS CONSENT DECREE, WITH FULL RIGHTS TO PETITION TO ENFORCE ITS TERMS, DATED THIS 27<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, ~~2020~~ 2021

X Chantel Cooper  
(Pls.) CHANTEL COOPER



- PLAINTIFF CHANTEL COOPER HAS RAISED SEVERAL ISSUES ON GRIEVANCE:
- 1) INADEQUATE HOUSING, OVER CROWDING, NO PRISON CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM, UNSANITARY CONDITIONS
  - 2) INADEQUATE ACCESS TO A UPDATED LEGAL LAW LIBRARY,
  - 3) INADEQUATE SAFETY RULES FOR FIRE PREVENTION AND ESCAPE ROUTES, NO SAFETY EQUIPMENT, OR FIRE EXTINGUISHERS
  - 4) INADEQUATE MEDICATION PASS, JAIL STAFF PASS MEDICATION, THERE ARE NO NURSES ON DUTY TO PASS MEDICATION,
  - 5) INADEQUATE ACCESS TO RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES.

- RELIEF -

THE PLAINTIFF CHANTEL COOPER PRAYS FOR RELIEF IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,500<sup>00</sup> FOR EACH DAY SHE WAS FORCED TO LIVE IN THESE INADEQUATE CONDITIONS OF CONFINEMENT. FOR PUNITIVE DAMAGES, PLAINTIFF ASKS FOR \$1,500,000<sup>00</sup> MILLION. THE PLAINTIFF ALSO ASKS FOR A INDEPENDANT BUILDING INSPECTION TO EXAMINE THE JAIL AND CONDEMN IT. THERE IS NO POSSIBLE WAY THIS BUILDING SHOULD OF PASSED ANY INSPECTION, HAD IT BEEN A HONEST BUILDING INSPECTOR, AND NOT ONE APPOINTED BY THE LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, DATED THIS 27<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 2021,

X Chantel Cooper  
(Pro se) CHANTEL COOPER,

(Pro se) X Miranda Sherdoin  
Miranda Sherdoin

(Pro se) X Sunny Ellenwood  
Sunny Ellenwood



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT A TRUE AND CORRECT  
COPY OF PLAINTIFF'S CIVIL SUIT HAS BEEN ALL PARTIES OF  
RECORD, ORIGINAL BEING SENT TO CLERK OF COURT,  
POSTAGE PREPAID FIRST CLASS BY PLAINTIFF.  
DATED THIS 27<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER 2021

x Chantel Cooper  
CHANTEL COOPER,

DISTRICT OF MONTANA  
OFFICE OF  
CLERK US, DISTRICT COURT  
P.O. Box 8537  
MISSOULA MONTANA  
59807

x Miranda Sherdain  
Miranda Sherdain

x Sunny Ellenwood  
Sunny Ellenwood

CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT - Lake County  
106 4TH AVE E.  
POLSON MT.  
59860